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DON VOWS TO FREEZE MIGRATION FROM THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

US President Donald Trump on Thursday threatened to suspend migration a day after an Afghan shot two National Guard soldiers

NEW ESCALATION IN ANTI-MIGRATION STANCE

Trump's social media post, which also threatened to reverse "millions" of admissions granted under his predecessor Joe Biden, marks a new escalation in the anti-migration stance. Trump said earlier that Sarah Beckstrom, a 20-year-old West Virginia National Guard member deployed in Washington as part of his crackdown on crimes, had died from wounds

19 NATIONS ALREADY FACE RESTRICTIONS

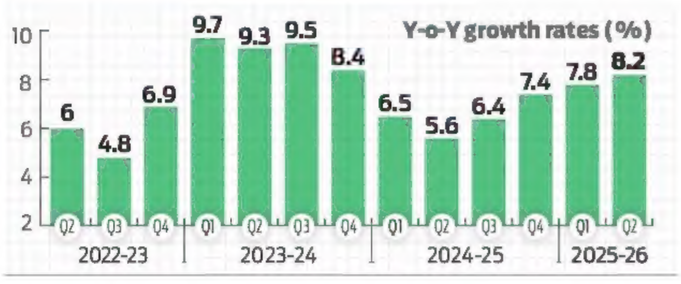
- The shooting on Wednesday has brought together three politically explosive issues: Trump's controversial use of the military at home, immigration, and the legacy of the US war in Afghanistan
- As per USCIS, 19 countries — including Afghanistan, Cuba, Haiti, Iran and Myanmar — already face US travel curbs under an order | P14

1,16,000

GREEN CARD HOLDERS FROM AFGHANISTAN IN THE U.S.

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

GATHERING MOMENTUM



At 8.2%, GDP grows at fastest pace in six qtrs

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA's economy grew at 8.2% in the second quarter of FY26, beating all estimates and marking the fastest pace in six quarters. This is a big jump from the 5.6% growth in the same period last fiscal. Most analysts had expected the Q2 growth to be in the range of 7–7.5%.

The 8.2% GDP growth is very encouraging. It reflects the impact of our pro-growth policies and reforms. It also reflects the hard work and enterprise of our people

Narendra Modi, PM

The strong performance is attributed to a boost in manufacturing, rising rural demand, and sustained growth of the services sector. Manufacturing grew at a robust 9.1% —more than four times the 2.2% recorded a year ago. Economists attribute this partly to frontloading of exports to the US ahead of the 50% tariff increase.

Construction also saw healthy expansion, growing at 7.2%. The services sector continued its positive momentum, clocking 9.2% growth in Q2 compared to 7.2% a year earlier.

Private consumption remained strong with 7.9% growth, compared to 6.4% last year and 7% in Q1. Gross fixed capital formation — an indicator of infrastructure and asset creation — maintained its rise at 7.3% versus 6.7% a year ago, although slightly lower than the 7.8% in Q1.

"The confluence of stable inflation, sustained public capex, and reform momentum positions the economy to navigate risks, as reflected in upward revisions to FY26 GDP growth projections by various agencies," said Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran. He added that India becoming a $4 trillion economy "as early as next year" is not unrealistic.

The government has highlighted the role reductions in GST rates played in lowering the cost of goods and services, supporting consumption and expanding the tax base.

However, economists cautioned that slower nominal growth could pose risks. Nominal GDP grew 8.7% in Q2, reaching an estimated ₹85.25 lakh crore. P15

Putin visit to boost defence ties

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

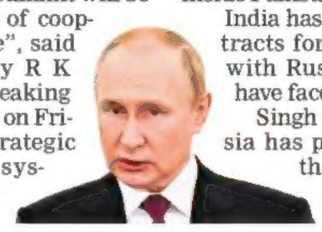
DEFENCE negotiations will be the key agenda of Russian President Vladmir Putin's visit to India from December 4 to 5, which is expected to take the strategic bilateral ties to the next level.

Announcing the two-day visit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday that Putin is coming to hold the annual India-Russia summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The visit will give an opportunity for the two leaders to review the progress in bilateral relations, set the vision to strengthen the 'special and privileged strategic partnership' and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, the MEA said.

Terming it a "visit of great importance", the Kremlin said the current geopolitical issues will also come up in talks.

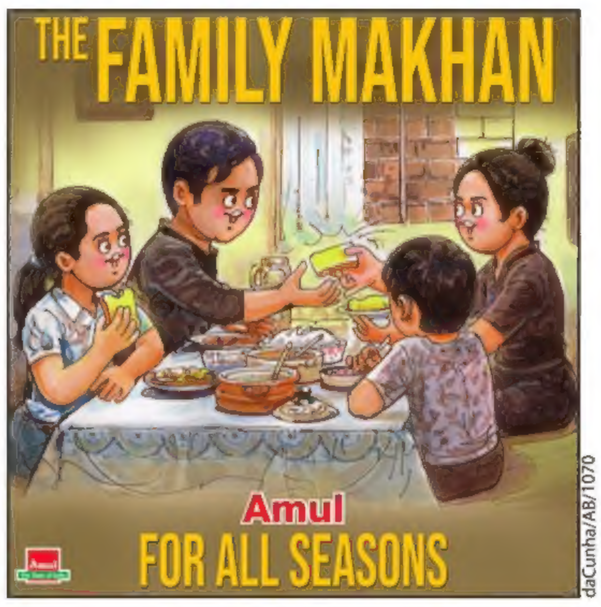
The focus of the summit will be "broader elements of cooperation on defence", said Defence Secretary R K Singh said while speaking at an event in Delhi on Friday. He said the strategic S-400 air defence systems may be on the table though no announcements are likely. "This meeting will focus on the larger defence partnership and resolving delivery delays," he said.



The S-400 played a crucial role during Operation Sindoor as it successfully targeted multiple Pakistani fighters and aircraft deep inside Pakistan.

India has already signed contracts for the S-400 systems with Russia, but deliveries have faced delays.

Singh confirmed that Russia has promised to deliver the remaining equipment in the financial year 2026-27.



● CYCLONE LOCATED 320 KM SOUTH OF KARAIKAL ● RED ALERT FOR COASTAL TN ● HIGH WIND WARNING

A man wades through floodwater outside his house following heavy rainfall in Kaduwela on the outskirts of Colombo on Friday | AFP

A coastal road chipped away by crashing waves in Rameswaram | EXPRESS

Puducherry beach saw rough tides on Friday. Red alert has been issued for Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Villupuram, Chengalpattu and Puducherry for Saturday | SRIRAM R

80 DEAD AS CYCLONE DITWAH RAVAGES LANKA

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

AT least 80 people have died and more than 25 remain missing till Friday night in Sri Lanka, which is bearing the brunt of massive destruction caused by Cyclone Ditwah.

With torrential rains, landslides and floods displacing thousands in the island nation, India has launched a swift humanitarian response for the island nation.

New Delhi has rushed emergency relief under Operation Sagar Bandhu, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveying condolences and stressing India's commitment to stand by its closest maritime neighbour.

By Friday evening, Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said the cyclone had affected 43,991 people. Many regions of the country remain submerged and inaccessible, with officials warning that rising water levels in the Kelani and Attanagalu rivers pose a grave threat to Colombo and the populous Gampaha district. Outages have hit nearly a third of the region, and two major hydropower plants have been shut down.

Responding to the escalating crisis, India has so far dispatched 4.5 tonnes of dry rations and 2 tonnes of fresh rations, including staple foods, ready-to-eat meals, dairy products, bakery items and other essential provisions. Additional survival supplies have also been handed over. The relief consignments were delivered by INS Vikrant and INS Udayagiri, both docked in Sri Lanka, an official release said.

Ditwah is likely to reach southwest Bay of Bengal near north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and south Andhra Pradesh by November 30, IMD said. P7

B'luru shivers at 16°-26°C, AQI levels rise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS the city braces for winter, temperature below normal was recorded on Friday, with the minimum temperature being recorded at 16.1°C and the maximum at 25.2°C, that is 1.1°C and 2.2°C below normal, according to readings from Indian Metrology Department (IMD).'

The maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 25°C and 16°C respectively until Saturday and cloudy sky in the city. The dip in the temperature comes as a cyclonic storm Ditwah developed over the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining the Sri Lanka coast, as per the IMD forecast. Additionally, the maximum temperature according to IMD stood at 25.3°C against the normal maximum temperature of 27.4°C on Friday in the city.

The forecast also notes that the movement of the cyclonic storm is also expected to likely bring light to moderate rain or thundershowers at a few places over Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chamarajanagara, Chikkaballapura and other districts of south interior Karnataka over the next week.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in various parts of the city has seen a downward trend due to the cloudy weather prevailing in the city; as the AQI recorded at the Central Silk Board station was at 156 on Friday as compared to the AQI 134 on Thursday, as per KSPCB data.

BRACE!

Rosan Kujur (R) scored twice as India defeated Chile 7-0 in the Junior Hockey World Cup on Friday | ASHWIN PRASATH | P19

Siddu, DKS to talk over breakfast today, outcome will decide their Delhi visit

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

AFTER a bitter play of words which only cleaved the rift wider on Thursday, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar are sitting down to breakfast on Saturday morning.

The twist to the leadership crisis came late Friday evening, when the Congress high command advised the two leaders to hold discussions at their level. AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal called them and conveyed the message.

"The high command called me and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and told us to meet, so I have called the DCM for breakfast. Shivakumar has also been saying he will agree to whatever the high command says," Siddaramaiah told reporters at Vidhana Soudha on Friday evening, adding that he will go to Delhi if invited.

Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar

"There is no change in my stand. I have already said I will follow what the party high command tells me. I will say the same now and tomorrow," he reiterated. They are scheduled to meet around 9.30am for breakfast at the CM's official residence Cauvery, according to sources.

If they are able to resolve the issue at their level, the high command will put on hold the meeting scheduled at 7pm Sunday in New Delhi, for some time, sources added. It was said that senior leader Sonia Gandhi would chair the meeting to resolve the leadership 'crisis' that has been haunting the Congress in Karnataka.

Earlier in the day, RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, son of AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, had told reporters there was no official information on the Delhi meeting. "If Kharge saheb says so, the meeting will be held. If the AICC president calls, everyone will go. The high command leaders have a sense of timing. This has been happening in the 130-year-old party," he said.

Priyank on Friday met Shivakumar and held deliberations for over half-an-hour before leaving for Delhi. P4

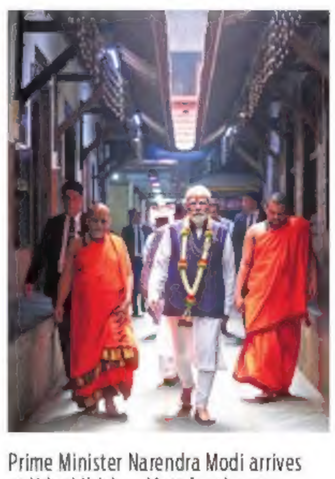
Adopt 9 resolutions for better life: PM in Udupi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Bhagavad Gita makes everyone aware of their duties and life commitments. Stating that he is inspired by Bhagavad Gita's message, he urged people to adopt certain resolutions. There are nine resolutions which are very essential for the present and future, he said, while addressing a gathering of devotees during the mega mass recitation of the Bhagavad Gita in Udupi on Friday.

The event, titled 'Lakshakantha Gita Parayana', was held as part of the Koti Gita Lekhana Yajna Abhiyan run by Udupi Paryaya Sri Puthige Mutt. The Prime Minister had earlier recited the 15th chapter of the Bhagavad Gita with the assembled devotees.

Modi stressed on the nine resolutions for a better life, as drawn from the teachings of the Gita. He urged people to save water, protect rivers, and plant a tree in the name of their mothers as a personal commitment to environmental conservation. CONTINUED ON: P4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives at Udupi Krishna Mutt for the mass recitation of Bhagavad Gita on Friday

'BHARATA BHAGYA VIDHATA'

Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji of Paryaya Sri Puthige Matha conferred the title 'Bharata Bhagya Vidhata' on PM Narendra Modi in Udupi on Friday. The seer urged the PM to take steps to develop the temple town as a major pilgrimage centre by implementing a corridor plan | P4

SC frees woman jailed for changing six lawyers

UDAYAN KISHORE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has ordered the release of a woman jailed by a lower court for changing her lawyers six times during an appeal in a cheque bounce case, describing the order as "appalling and shocking."

The case involves two dishonoured cheques issued by the woman's mother, worth ₹7 lakh and ₹5.02 lakh respectively. The trial court convicted and sentenced both the mother and daughter. The woman subsequently filed an appeal before the sessions court in Faridabad, which has been pending for eight years, the bench noted.

Meanwhile, the sessions court cancelled their bail and ordered their custody. The mother and daughter challenged this decision in the high court and later the Supreme Court.

A bench comprising Justices Arvind Kumar and N V Anjaria, in an order dated November 27, noted that the mother had passed away, but the appellate court had not accepted her death certificate. The sessions court directed the concerned Station House Officer to verify the legitimacy of the certificate. The bench observed that if the lawyer was not assisting the court, the proper action would have been to appoint an amicus curiae or allow the accused time to arrange alternate counsel — not to jail her.

The court ordered the woman's release on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh."It is appalling and shocking that the appellate court insisted on the appellant's presence on every hearing date, particularly after suspending the sentence already passed," the bench said.

EXPRESS READ

4 cops accused of killing youth in B'luru rehab

Bengaluru: Four policemen, including an inspector, have been booked for murder after a 22-year-old youth, whom they allegedly detained illegally, was found dead in a private rehab centre in Madanayakanahalli on Wednesday | P3

TMC says 40 SIR-related deaths in West Bengal

NEW DELHI: A Trinamool Congress delegation on Friday met the full bench of the Election Commission of India here and alleged that at least 40 SIR-related deaths had taken place in West Bengal, accusing the poll panel chief of having "blood on its hands" | P11